CLAIM AMENDMENTS

<u>Claim Amendment Summary</u>

Claims pending
- Before this Amendment: Claims 1-42.
- After this Amendment: Claims 1-42

Non-Elected, Canceled, or Withdrawn claims: None

Amended claims: 1-5, 7-14, 16, 18-22, 24-26, 28, 30, and 32-42

New claims: None

<u>Claims:</u>

1.   **(Currently Amended)** A method, comprising:

receiving at a centralized alert center, a user-submitted indication of an alert source from which a user desires to receive alerts, wherein:

the centralized alert center is not directly associated with the alert source; and

the alert source is configured to enable users to subscribe directly to the alert source;

subscribing, by the centralized alert center, on behalf of the user, to the alert source, such that alerts for the user are sent by the alert source to the centralized alert center rather than to the user;

receiving <u>at the centralized alert center, on behalf of the user,</u> an alert for a <u>the</u> user<u>, and on behalf of the user,</u> from ~~one of multiple alert sources~~ <u>the alert source</u>;

mapping the alert <u>that was received</u> to a delivery mode; and

<u>based on the mapping, forwarding</u> the <u>same</u> alert <u>that was received</u> ~~transmitting the alert~~ to the user according to the delivery mode.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein mapping the alert <u>that was received to a delivery mode</u> ~~further~~ comprises mapping the alert according to the <u>alert</u> source ~~of the alert~~.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein mapping the alert <u>that was received to the delivery mode</u> ~~further~~ comprises mapping the alert according to <u>content of the</u> alert ~~content~~.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the delivery mode specifies a delivery method used to ~~deliver~~ <u>forward</u> the <u>same</u> alert <u>that was received</u> to the user, and wherein ~~the transmitting further~~ <u>forwarding</u> the <u>same alert that was received to the user according to the delivery mode</u> comprises transmitting the <u>same</u> alert <u>that was received</u> to the user via the delivery method indicated in the delivery mode.

5.   **(Currently Amended)**   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the delivery mode specifies a delivery action that indicates a delivery method to be used to ~~deliver~~ forward the same alert that was received and whether an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected, and the method further comprises waiting for an acknowledgement to the alert if the delivery mode indicates that an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected.

6.   **(Original)**   The method as recited in claim 5, wherein the delivery action specifies a time period to wait for an acknowledgement if an acknowledgement to the alert is expected, and wherein the waiting further comprises waiting the specified time period for an acknowledgement to the alert.

7.   **(Currently Amended)**   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein:

the delivery mode ~~further~~ specifies a first delivery method used to ~~deliver~~ forward the same alert that was received;

the delivery mode ~~further~~ specifies a second delivery method used to ~~deliver~~ forward the same alert that as received;

the second delivery method is different than the first delivery method; and

forwarding the same alert that was received ~~the transmitting further~~ comprises transmitting the same alert that was received to the user via the first delivery method and the second delivery method as indicated by the delivery mode.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the mapping <u>the alert that was received to a delivery mode</u> ~~further~~ comprises:

defining one or more categories of alerts;

assigning a delivery mode to each category; and

categorizing the alert, thereby mapping the alert to the delivery mode of the category.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 8, <u>wherein mapping the alert that was received to a delivery mode</u> further comprising assigning a priority to each category, and wherein ~~the~~ assigning a delivery mode <u>to each category</u> ~~further~~ comprises assigning a delivery mode to a category based on the priority assigned to the category.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein:

mapping the alert that was received to the delivery mode ~~further~~ comprises:

mapping the alert that was received to a primary delivery block specifying a first delivery action that specifies a first delivery method, and a secondary delivery block specifying a second delivery action that specifies a second delivery method, wherein the second delivery method is not the same as the first delivery method; and

~~transmitting~~ forwarding the alert that was received to the user according to the delivery mode ~~further~~ comprises:

transmitting the alert that was received to the user according to the first delivery action; ~~and~~

if transmitting the alert that was received to the user according to the first delivery action is successful, preventing the alert that was received from being transmitted to the user according to the second delivery action; and

if transmitting the alert that was received to the user according to the first delivery action is unsuccessful, transmitting the alert that was received to the user according to the second delivery action ~~if transmitting the alert to the user according to the first delivery action is unsuccessful~~.

Serial No.: 09/887,413
Atty Docket No.: MS1-0752US   -8-   lee & hayes   The Business of IP ™
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11. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the first and second delivery actions each ~~further specify~~ indicate a delivery method to be used to deliver the alert and whether an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected, and the method further comprises:

waiting for an acknowledgement to the transmission of the alert according to the first delivery action if the first delivery action ~~indicates~~ specifies that an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected; and

waiting for an acknowledgement to the transmission of the alert according to the second delivery action if the second delivery action ~~indicates~~ specifies that an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected, provided the alert is transmitted according to the secondary delivery action.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 10, wherein:

the first delivery action <u>further specifies a</u> ~~indicates first and second~~ <u>third</u> delivery ~~methods~~ <u>method, wherein the third delivery method is not the same as the first delivery method</u>; and

<u>if transmitting the alert that was received to the user according to the first delivery action is unsuccessful, transmitting the alert that was received to the user according to the second delivery action comprises determining that transmitting the alert that was received to the user according to the first delivery action is unsuccessful</u> ~~the transmitting the alert to the user according to the second delivery action further comprises transmitting the alert to the user according to the second delivery action~~ if either the first delivery method or the ~~second~~ <u>third</u> delivery method indicated in the first delivery action fails to result in transmission of the alert <u>that was received</u> to the user.

13.   **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 10, wherein:

each of the first and second delivery actions further ~~comprises~~ specifies:

~~a delivery method to be used to deliver the alert;~~

whether an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected; and

a time period to wait for an acknowledgement if an acknowledgement to the alert ~~is~~ should be expected; and

the method further comprises:

waiting for an acknowledgement to the transmission of the alert according to the fist delivery action if the first delivery action indicates that an acknowledgement to the alert is expected; and

waiting for an acknowledgement to the transmission of the alert according to the second delivery action if the second delivery action indicates that an acknowledgement to the alert is expected, provided that the alert was transmitted according to the secondary delivery action.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the primary delivery block and the secondary delivery block each specify a first delivery action that indicates a first delivery method to be used to deliver the alert and whether an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected, and a second delivery action that indicates a second delivery method, which is different than the first delivery method, to be used to deliver the alert and whether an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected, the method further comprising:

waiting for an acknowledgement to the transmission of the alert according to each delivery action of the primary delivery block that indicates that an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected; and

waiting for an acknowledgement to the transmission of the alert according to each delivery action of the secondary delivery block that indicates that an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected, provided the alert is transmitted according to the delivery actions of the secondary delivery block.

15. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 14, wherein each delivery action that indicates to wait for an acknowledgement specifies a time period to wait for an acknowledgement, and wherein waiting for an acknowledgement further comprises waiting the specified time period for an acknowledgement.

16. **(Currently Amended)** A centralized alert delivery system, comprising:

an input/output (I/O) module configured to receive alerts from multiple alert sources, wherein:

each of the multiple alert sources is configured to enable users to subscribe to receive alerts directly from the alert source; and

the centralized alert delivery system is configured as an intermediary that enables a user to direct the centralized alert delivery system to subscribe to receive alerts directly from the multiple alert sources on behalf of the user, thereby enabling the user to receive alerts from the alert source without providing any user contact information to the alert source;

a mapping module configured to map an alert received on behalf of a user from one of the multiple alert sources to a delivery mode; and

a communications layer that interfaces to one or more communications modules, the communications layer being configured to receive the mapped alert and deliver the alert to the user via a communications module according to the delivery mode associated with the alert.

17. **(Original)** The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 16, wherein the mapping module is further configured to map the alert according to the source of the alert.

18.   **(Currently Amended)** The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 16, wherein the alert ~~further~~ comprises content, and wherein the mapping module is further configured to map the alert according to the content of the alert.

19.   **(Currently Amended)** The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 16, wherein the delivery mode specifies a delivery action that indicates a delivery method by which an alert ~~associated with~~ mapped to the delivery mode is transmitted.

20.   **(Currently Amended)** The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 19, wherein the delivery method is chosen from ~~one of the following~~ a group of delivery methods consisting of: e-mail, instant messaging, SMS (short message service) messaging.

21.   **(Currently Amended)** The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 16, wherein the delivery mode ~~further~~ comprises one or more delivery blocks, each delivery block ~~including~~ specifying one or more delivery actions, each delivery action specifying:

a delivery method by which an alert associated with the delivery mode is ~~transmitted~~ delivered;

whether an acknowledgement to the alert is expected; and

if an acknowledgement to the alert is expected, a time to wait for the acknowledgement.

22.   **(Currently Amended)** The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 16, wherein the delivery mode ~~further~~ comprises one or more delivery blocks, each delivery block ~~including~~ specifying one or more delivery actions, each delivery action specifying a delivery method by which the associated alert is ~~transmitted~~ delivered and whether an acknowledgement to the transmitted alert is expected.

23.   **(Original)** The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 22, wherein each delivery action that indicates an acknowledgement is expected further specifies a time to wait for the acknowledgement.

24. **(Currently Amended)** The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 16, wherein:

the delivery mode ~~further~~ comprises a primary delivery block and a secondary delivery block; and

the communications layer is further configured ~~to~~ to:

deliver the alert <u>to the user</u> via the one or more communications modules according to a delivery method specified in the primary delivery block<u>;</u>

~~and,~~ if delivery according to the primary delivery block fails, ~~to~~ deliver the alert according to a delivery method specified in the secondary delivery block<u>; and</u>

<u>if delivery according to the primary delivery block succeeds, preventing the alert from being delivered according to the delivery method specified in the secondary delivery block.</u>

25. **(Currently Amended)** The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 16, wherein:

the delivery mode ~~further~~ comprises a primary delivery block that includes a first delivery action that specifies a <u>first</u> delivery method and a second delivery action that specifies a <u>second</u> delivery method, <u>wherein the second delivery method is different than the first delivery method</u>; and

the communications layer is further configured to deliver the alert via the one or more communications modules according to the <u>first</u> delivery method specified in the first delivery action and according to the <u>second</u> delivery method specified in the second delivery action.

26.   (Currently Amended)   The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 25, wherein:

the delivery mode further comprises a secondary delivery block; and

the communications layer is further configured to ~~delivery~~ :

deliver the alert via the one or more communications modules according to a delivery method specified in the secondary delivery block if the delivery of the alert according to either the first delivery action or the second delivery action in the primary delivery block fails; and

prevent delivery of the alert via the one or more communications modules according to a delivery method specified in the secondary delivery block if the delivery of the alert according to the primary delivery block succeeds.

27.   (Previously presented)   The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

a categories module that identifies categories into which an alert may be categorized, wherein each category has an associated delivery mode; and

the mapping module is further configured to categorize the alert into a category identified in the categories module thereby associating the alert with the delivery mode of the category.

28. **(Currently Amended)** A computer system, comprising:

a processor;

an I/O module;

memory; and

an alert center stored in the memory, the alert center including:

a subscription layer configured to:

receive a request from a user to subscribe to a particular alert source on behalf of the user, wherein the alert source is not directly affiliated with the alert center;

subscribe to the particular alert source on behalf of the user;

receive an alert from an the alert source and assign a delivery mode to the alert; and

a communications layer configured to transmit the same alert that was received to the user according to a delivery mode assigned to the alert.

29. **(Original)** The computer system as recited in claim 28, wherein the alert center is further configured to monitor for an acknowledgement that the alert was successfully delivered.

30.   **(Currently Amended)**   The computer system as recited in claim 28, wherein the alert center is further configured to monitor for an acknowledgement that the alert was successfully delivered <u>according to a first delivery method associated with the delivery mode</u> and, if an acknowledgment is not received within a specified time period, assign a backup delivery method to the alert and attempt to deliver the alert according to the backup delivery method<u>, wherein the backup delivery method is different than the first delivery method</u>.

31.   **(Original)** The computer system as recited in claim 28, wherein:

the delivery mode further comprises a primary delivery block having a first delivery action and a second delivery action; and

the communications layer is further configured to transmit the alert according to the first delivery action and the second delivery action of the primary delivery block.

Serial No.: 09/887,413
Atty Docket No.: MS1-0752US
Atty/Agent: Kayla D. Brant
-20-
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32. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system as recited in ~~claim 31~~ claim 28, wherein:

the delivery mode further comprises a primary delivery block having a delivery action and a secondary delivery block having a delivery action; and

the communications layer is further configured to transmit the alert according to the delivery action of the primary delivery block and, if delivery of the alert according to the primary delivery block fails, to transmit the alert according to the delivery action of the secondary delivery block.

33. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system as recited in claim 31, wherein:

~~the delivery action of the primary delivery block is a first delivery action;~~

~~the primary delivery block further comprises a second delivery action;~~

the first delivery action and the second delivery action further comprise a time to wait for an acknowledgement that the alert was received; and

the communications layer is further configured to transmit the alert according to the delivery action of the secondary delivery block if an acknowledgement to the transmission of the alert according to the first delivery action or the second delivery action of the primary delivery block is not received ~~with~~ within the time to wait identified by the first delivery action and the second delivery action, respectively.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer system as recited in claim 28, wherein:

the subscription layer ~~further comprises~~ comprises:

a categories module that includes one or more categories into which an alert may be categorized, each category having a delivery mode associated therewith; and

~~the subscription layer further comprises~~ a mapping module configured to categorize an alert received from an alert source, thereby associating the delivery mode of the category with the alert.

35. (Currently Amended) One or more ~~computer-readable~~ computer storage media containing computer-executable instructions that, when executed on a computer, ~~perform the following~~ direct the computer to perform a method comprising:

subscribing to an alert source on behalf of a user, wherein the alert source is configured to enable users to subscribe to receive alerts directly from the alert source;

receiving, on behalf of the user, an alert from ~~one of a plurality of alert sources~~ the alert source;

determining a delivery mode which specifies a delivery method by which the alert should be forwarded to ~~a~~ the user; and

transmitting the same alert that was received to the user according to the delivery mode.

36.   (Currently Amended)   The one or more ~~computer readable~~ computer storage media as recited in claim 35, wherein ~~the~~ determining ~~a primary~~ the delivery mode ~~further~~ comprises:

    determining the alert source from which the alert originated;

    identifying a category associated with the alert source; and

    identifying a delivery mode associated with the category.

37.   (Currently Amended)   The one or more ~~computer-readable~~ computer storage media as recited in claim 35, wherein ~~the~~ transmitting the alert ~~further~~ according to the delivery mode comprises:

    identifying a delivery action associated with the delivery mode; and

    transmitting the alert according to the delivery action.

38.   (Currently Amended)   The one or more ~~computer-readable~~ computer storage media as recited in claim 35, wherein ~~the~~ transmitting the alert ~~further~~ according to the delivery mode comprises:

    identifying a first delivery action associated with the delivery mode;

    identifying a second delivery action associated with the delivery mode; and

    transmitting the alert according to the first delivery action and the second delivery action.

39. **(Currently Amended)** The one or more ~~computer-readable~~ computer storage media as recited in claim 35, wherein:

the delivery mode ~~further~~ comprises a primary delivery block that specifies one or more delivery actions, and a secondary delivery block that specifies one or more delivery actions; and

~~the~~ transmitting the alert to the user according to the delivery mode ~~further~~ comprises transmitting the alert to the user according to the delivery action of the primary delivery block and, if the transmission according to the delivery action of the primary delivery block fails, transmitting the alert to the user according to the delivery action of the secondary delivery block.

40. **(Currently Amended)** The one or more ~~computer-readable~~ computer storage media as recited in claim 39, wherein:

the primary delivery block comprises first and second delivery actions; and

the transmission of the alert according to the primary delivery block is deemed to fail if the transmission of the alert according to the first or second delivery actions fails.

41. **(Currently Amended)** The one or more ~~computer readable~~ computer storage media as recited in claim 39, wherein:

the primary delivery block comprises first and second delivery actions; and

the transmission of the alert according to the primary delivery block is deemed to fail if the transmission of the alert according to both the first and second delivery actions fails.

42. **(Currently Amended)** The one or more ~~computer readable~~ computer storage media as recited in claim 35, wherein the method further ~~comprising~~ comprises monitoring for an acknowledgement that the alert was successfully received by the user.